

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A carrier for growing trays, comprising a series of legs and a supporting surface carried thereby, wherein:

in said supporting surface, adjacent at least one of a number of and preferably ~~each of~~ the legs, an opening is provided, such that the carriers in a storage position are stackable in nested position, with a number of legs of one or more upper carriers reaching into at least a number of said openings of a lower carrier; and

the supporting surface determines at least one outer contour, while the legs extend at least partly outside said outer contour, such that two carriers in a position of use are stackable, with the legs of an upper carrier resting on the legs of a lower carrier.

2. (Currently amended) A carrier according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is designed such that next to at least one of a number of and preferably ~~each of~~ the legs, a recess is provided, partly situated within said outer contour viewed at right angles to the supporting surface, the arrangement being such that two carriers can be arranged next to each other, with at least two legs of a first carrier being received at least partly in a recess ~~recesses~~ of a second carrier arranged next to it, and vice versa.

3. (Currently amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the outer contour is determined by a longitudinal edge which is ~~slightly~~ raised relative to the supporting surface.

4. (Currently amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein on at least two opposite sides of the supporting surface, at least two legs are provided, wherein, seen in side view, the legs on a first side of the supporting surface are staggered relative the legs on the opposite side, such that the legs on the first and opposite sides ~~these~~, in said side view, are visible at least substantially next to each other.

5. (Currently amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein each opening has such dimensions such that therein at least two ~~and preferably at least three~~ legs can be received next to each other.

6. (Currently amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the supporting surface is manufactured in a form of like a grid.

7. (Currently amended) A carrier according to claim 1 ~~wherein series of carriers according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein~~
a set of such carrier, when stacked in a storage position, ~~the carriers are~~ stackable in a nested arrangement condition, with the legs of at least one carrier resting on the legs of a lower carrier, ~~preferably thereby enclosing at least one, more in particular at least two supporting surfaces of intermediate carriers; and~~
when in a position of use, a set of the carriers are placeable next to each other, for forming substantially continuous rows of carriers.

8. (Currently amended) ~~An assembly of a carrier according to any one of claims 1-6 or a series of carriers according to claim 7, wherein at least a number of carriers and preferably each of the carriers is provided with~~ An assembly comprising:

a carrier for growing trays, comprising a series of legs and a supporting surface carried thereby, wherein:

in said supporting surface, adjacent at least one of the legs, an opening is provided, such that the carriers in a storage position are stackable in nested position, with a number of legs of one or more upper carriers reaching into at least a number of said openings of a lower carrier, and

the supporting surface determines at least one outer contour, while the legs extend at least partly outside said outer contour, such that two carriers in a position of use are stackable, with the legs of an upper carrier resting on the legs of a lower carrier; and

at least one tray with plant cavities, carried by the supporting surface of the respective carrier, and wherein the at least one tray or an assembly of a series of such trays next to each other has an outer contour substantially corresponding to the outer contour of the supporting surface.

9. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 8, wherein the ~~or each~~ tray is provided with a collar substantially determining the outer contour, which, in the condition when placed on the carrier, is spaced from the respective supporting surface.

10. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, wherein in said position of use a series of carriers are placeable next to and/or behind each other, such that trays supported thereon substantially abut each other.

11. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 10, wherein in said position of use, ~~also~~ the supporting surfaces and/or legs of the respective carriers substantially abut each other.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for growing and transporting seedlings and the like, ~~wherein~~ using assemblies comprising:

a carrier for growing trays, comprising a series of legs and a supporting surface carried thereby, wherein:

in said supporting surface, adjacent at least one of the legs, an opening is provided, such that the carriers in a storage position are stackable in nested position, with a number of legs of one or more upper carriers reaching into at least a number of said openings of a lower carrier, and

the supporting surface determines at least one outer contour, while the legs extend at least partly outside said outer contour, such that two carriers in a position of use are stackable, with the legs of an upper carrier resting on the legs of a lower carrier; and

at least one tray with plant cavities, carried by the supporting surface of the carrier, and wherein the at least one tray has an outer contour substantially corresponding to the outer contour of the supporting surface, and wherein the method comprises the steps of:

supplying a series of the assemblies according to any one of claims 1-7, at least a series of carriers according to any one of claims 1-7 and matching trays with plant cavities are supplied to an environment of use, with the carriers being nested;

arranging the carriers ~~are set up~~ next to and/or behind each other at a growing position and the trays are placed on supporting surfaces thereof, such that the trays substantially abut each other without intermediate space;

placing seedlings ~~are placed in the plant cavities and are grown~~ for growing therein;

stacking the carriers, with trays supported thereon having seedlings ~~grown~~ growing therein, ~~are stacked by each time by~~ positioning the legs of a first carrier on the legs of a lower, second carrier;

conveying the stacked carriers with trays and seedlings ~~are conveyed to a~~ planting position;

repotting the seedlings ~~are repotted~~ in the planting position;

removing the trays ~~are removed and~~ stacking the carriers ~~are stacked~~ in said nested position and ~~are returned~~ returning the carriers to said position of use.

14. (New) An assembly according to claim 8 wherein the carriers are substantially manufactured by injection molding and the trays are substantially manufactured through deformation of sheet material.

15. (New) An assembly according to claim 14 wherein the trays are manufactured through a vacuum forming technique.

16. (New) A carrier according to claim 1 wherein an opening is provided in said supporting surface adjacent each of the legs.

17. (New) A carrier according to claim 2 wherein the carrier is designed such that the recess is provided next to each of the legs.

18. (New) A carrier according to claim 7 wherein the legs of at least one carrier rest on the legs of a lower carrier thereby enclosing at least two supporting surfaces of intermediate carriers.

19. (New) An assembly according to claim 8 wherein an opening is provided in said supporting surface adjacent each of the legs.